

DARRELL STEINBERG **PRESS RELEASE**

NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MEDIA ADVISORY: December 2, 2003

CONTACTS: Sam Delson, 916-319-2218
Ken Futernick, 916-747-2332

**New Teacher Qualification Index Data Shows Improvement
But Public Schools Improving Too Slowly to Meet Federal Standards**

Sacramento – New data released today on the numbers of credentialed teachers at each public school and school district in California shows small improvements over previous years.

The average school improved its rating on the Teacher Qualification Index (TQI) by approximately 7 percent, according to data presented by Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, and California State University, Sacramento, Education Professor Ken Futernick.

However, the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that all students must be taught by “highly qualified” teachers by 2005-06. At the current rate, it will take more than a decade before California can ensure that all of its public school students have access to highly-qualified teachers.

“That is a long time for students to wait,” said Steinberg, who chairs the Assembly Select Committee on High-Priority Schools. “All of the schools that still employ teachers who are not highly qualified stand to lose billions of dollars in federal assistance.”

Steinberg authored AB 833 in 2001 to require the state to publish rating data reflecting the credential status and experience level of teachers at each public school. Then-Gov. Gray Davis vetoed the bill, saying it would cost too much. Futernick then developed the TQI on his own time without using any state resources or salary funds.

The public can access TQI data and compare changes for each of the last three years on an interactive web site developed by Futernick at <http://www.edfordemocracy.org/tqi/>.

#####